New format of JEE

568. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the new format of the Joint Entrance Examination to the Indian Institutes of Technology has borne fruit;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the number of candidates who cleared JEE to the NTs in the first attempt has gone up from 28.49 per cent in 2005-to 43.50 per cent; and

(c) whether it is a fact that many changes made in the new format helped participation of female candidates in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) The new format of the Joint Entrance Examination to the Indian Institutes of Technology, which is **a** single stage examination, has definitely borne fruit.

(b) Yes, the number of candidates who cleared JEE to the IITs in the first attempt has gone up from 28.49 per cent in 2005 to 43.50 per cent in 2006.

(c) In the new JEE format, the application fees for female candidates was half (Rs. 300/-) of the fees of general male candidates. The total number of registered female candidates was 58,997 in JEE 2006 as compared to 29,291 in JEE 2005.

Shortage of qualified teachers in Central Universities

569. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the central universities are facing shortage of qualified teachers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to raise ' the retirement age of teachers in central universities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;